

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the interview conducted on May 8, 2008 between Examiner Staples and Attorney Jason Bond. This communication is being filed in order to enter certain amendments discussed with the Examiner during the interview and is designed to be reviewed in conjunction with the Applicants' Response filed April 30, 2008.

In this communication, Claims 7, 26, 30, and 36 have been amended. In particular, these claims have been amended such that each claim recites that: 1) the 5' and 3' ends of the first-strand cDNA are ligated to each other; and 2) to obtain a single-stranded circular sense promoter-containing first-strand cDNA. Applicants note that these amendments were made to further the prosecution of the present application, without acquiescing to the Examiner's rejections, while reserving the right to prosecute the original claims in the future.

As discussed with the Examiner, it is clear that the cited art does not teach the generation of a circular single-stranded nucleic acid, where the ends of the nucleic acid are ligated to each other. Also as discussed with the Examiner, the cited art does not teach an anti-sense promoter that anneals to the circular nucleic acid to form a transcription substrate (e.g., for an RNA polymerase). As such, Applicants submit that the claims should be passed to allowance.

CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application, Applicants encourage the Examiner to call the undersigned at 608-218-6900.

Dated: June 9, 2008

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